

FINAL REPORT: QIA'S TUSAQTAUVUT STUDY SPECIFIC TO BAFFINLAND'S PROPOSED PHASE 2 OF THE MARY RIVER PROJECT FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF ARCTIC BAY AND CLYDE RIVER

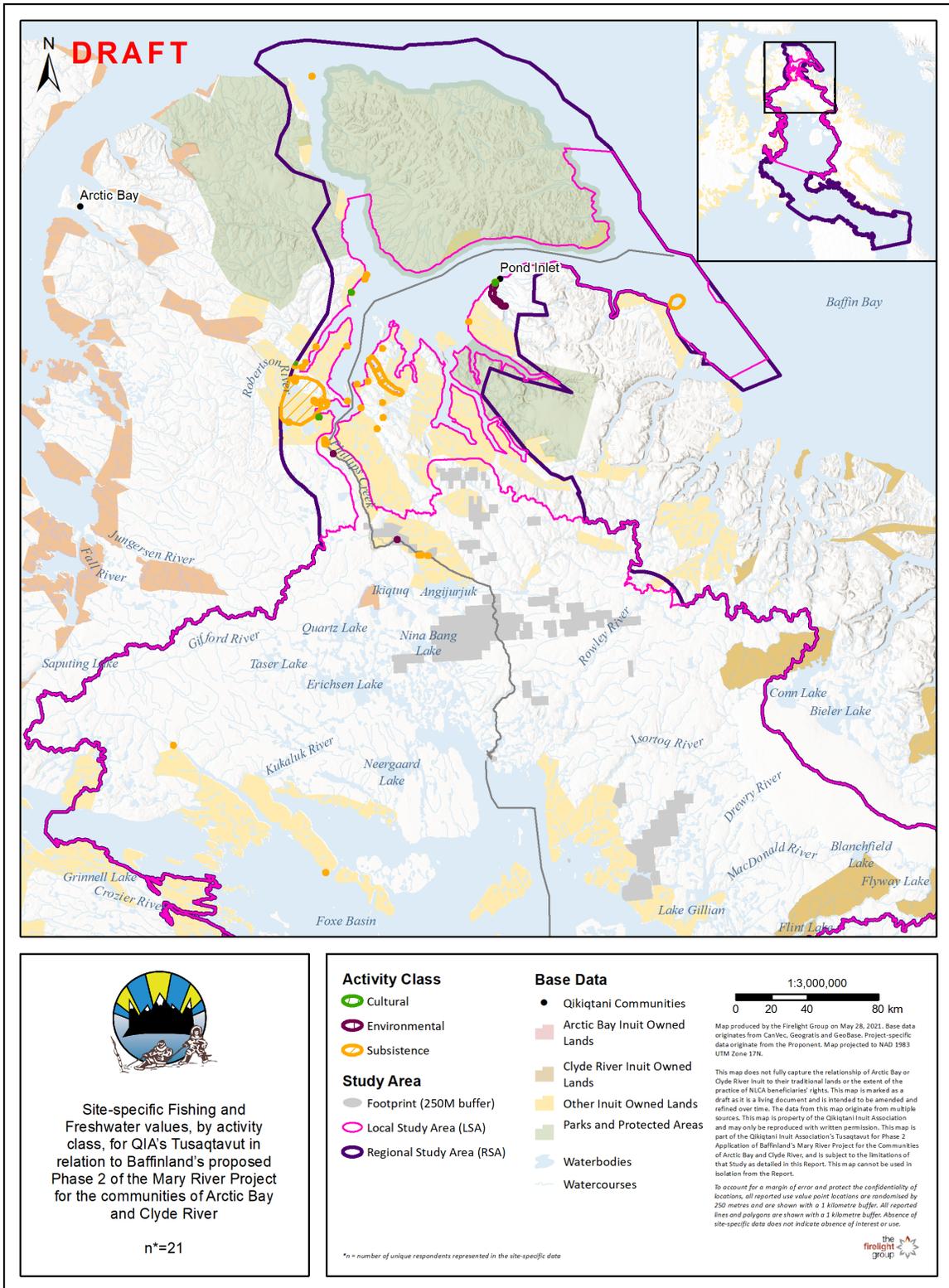


Figure 9: Arctic Bay and Clyde River site-specific Fishing and Freshwater values reported in the Study Area

4.4.2 Importance

During mapping interviews, participants discussed the importance of fishing and clean water. Fish are an important food source, and healthy water ensures the health of fish along with other animals, as well as humans.

The – it's important to continue fishing because fish are our, like, our vital source of food and it's part of our daily diet and it's important to continue fishing. (A14 2020)

I think the water because we rely on water. The animals, humans, everybody relies on it. I think that's the most important thing there. (C26 2020)

According to participants, people collected drinking water in the Mary River area prior to the construction and operation of the mine. The area was known for having quality water sources, and hunters would use it as a gathering place while out camping and hunting caribou.

Yeah, they used to collect water there [while camping and hunting caribou in Mary River area before the mine]. ... Yeah, they used to have very good water there. ... They were very good water sources. ... for anybody that was hunting there, it was a gathering place, stop over place for hunters and families and those would be the drinking sources. (C15 2020a, interpreted from Inuktitut)

One participant discussed the preference for obtaining drinking water from rivers over still water sources, due to the freshness and lower risk.

River water was preferred ... Yeah, so when it's flowing freely on the river, it's not still water. Still water has more of a earthy taste, so the river water is flowing, so it doesn't sit, so it has a fresher taste – fresh spring water. ... So, his parents taught him how to collect river water, and taught him not to drink from still water, because still water tends to have a lot more little buggies. They're not harmful, but we don't want to drink water with bugs. ... Inuit always traditionally preferred water coming from streams and rivers. (C21 2020, interpreted from Inuktitut)

Another participant described how, during the spring, people would collect fresh water from the top of the ice, on which there is a layer of fresh water.

During the spring? ... On the ice. On the – on top of the ice it's – there's a clear water, pure water when the ice getting melt, it has a pure water. (C20 2020)

Participants discussed fishing for landlocked char in various water bodies throughout the Study Area, including some of remaining pristine fishing areas within and just outside of the Project RSA, which they prefer for accessibility and the quality of the fish.

That's pristine fishing area [near Kangisuarjuk in the RSA]. The fish tastes the best ... That's a very sacred place for him because it's one of the lakes you have access to before the ice forms. But now with the weather and the freeze up being different every year, it seems like the lakes and the ice is freezing at the same rate. Which is limiting them to be able to reach that lake through the travels right now. And he said that it has one of the best tasting fish in there. (A15 2020)

But because I was always caribou hunting with the elders, I know this area pretty well. There's a fish – when there's no caribou around there's landlocked char over here. I went to this little lake ... There's landlocked char in these. It looks like a river, but there's landlocked char. I believe it's this one ... We ended up fishing there because they have really big... I don't know what you call caviar ... Yeah. They're landlocked char and they're completely red. (A07 2020)

Oh yes, yeah. It has big fish, big fish. Very big fish. Almost to the four-footer. ... They've got different taste. No taste. Doesn't taste like really Arctic char. [Inuktitut spoken 0:56:47:0] It's different taste, but less taste. (C20 2020)

4.4.3 Impacted Baseline

Over time, participants have noticed a decline the quality of freshwater in the Study Area. Participants avoid collecting freshwater in the Study Area in general, due to both advisories and their own observations of contamination while out on the land.

Yeah, that's our – that's our route and caribou's route. ... In this [Project] area. ... And we're, we're advised if we go through that area, we're advised to bring our own water now. Scary. ... if we go hunting we're advised to bring our own water, not drink from there. So concerning. (C14 2020)

Several participants described the poor quality of the ice at Milne Inlet, and their avoidance of collecting ice for water in that area.

Oh like down in the, down at the shore like where's Milne Inlet ... okay yeah down at the shore ... Water like water from the ice ... I used to pick the ... Pick water from the ice there. But once the mine – once they start mining more – I stopped picking I never pick up water anymore. ... There was too much ore on the ice. (C19 2020)

Okay. To there and back [flying from Arctic Bay to Milne Inlet and back] he observed that this whole area [head of Milne Inlet] was just full of brown. The ice area was all brown ... Yeah, it's not clean ice anymore. That's what he observed, plus the fish go upstream and downstream, so if they're going downstream maybe they're going to silty ... (A13 2020)

Other participants spoke about avoiding freshwater in the entire area from Mary River to Milne Inlet, and also beyond the RSA, due to the dust from the mine and the Tote Road which can blow long distances and settle on snow, ice, and water bodies.

All that [Local Study] area is now covered in dust, it's not usable for sustenance in terms of water ... [C01] is just talking about when he first went up there in [19]75, the landscape and everything around Mary River, was absolutely pristine and not contaminated. Um, it's a very well-used area traditionally in terms of subsistence living with caribou and fish. That's what he started with. But now today, the corridor that he showed you from the mine to Milne Inlet, all that whole corridor is contaminated and you cannot use the water. ... Yes, the corridor, yeah, the corridor from the mine to the port, the water is contaminated and you cannot use it for drinking because of the dust. Contamination from the dust. (C01 2020)

So the last two years they've been patrolling and monitoring the area by skidoo and ATV all the way up to Arctic Bay and then Baffinland was stating that the dust is not travelling anything beyond like one mile or two miles but the evidence says that they took some snow samples along the way here and then when they melted the metals would sink to the bottom of the cup or anything. And as far as here they could see the all the dust has like blown away and settled in this area. (A10 2020)

He probably wouldn't [drink water in the Study Area], and it's a concern now, because of the dust settling in all of the region, as far as going down to Iglulik. People from Iglulik have said that the dust is reaching their area, because of the prevailing north winds that we talked – people have talked about. So, it gets carried to around Iglulik area. (C21 2020, interpreted from Inuktitut)

They would collect in the lake there [at the Mary River Mine Site, while hunting], yeah, right there. They would collect ice for water. ... he would never collect water source from that anymore, especially there with the activities and the dust that they see and keep hearing about. (C23 2020, interpreted from Inuktitut)

Pond Inlet hunters were not able to use the water or the snow around the surrounding Study area, 'cause that was orange and red ... Is it alright to consume that water, if it's like visually red? Is that safe to consume? That's also, one of the questions he wants answered. (A05 2020)

In addition to drinking water, participants are concerned about how the dust impacts the health of the fish in the freshwater of the Study Area. This is based on their observations of how far the dust can travel, and how it settles onto preferred fishing locations.

I used to work here and I used to travel this area. From here – from here to down. And they make too much dust on the lake ... There's some lots of fish, all kind of fish around here ... But they're making too much mess. (A13 2020)

So on a windy day the study area along with the regional study area on a windy day like it goes here and here. And it's been reported that there's no impacts occurring here when like it's visible that the dust is travelling here and this is, he wants us to go there because this is a, he identified that as a major fishing spot all year around, and it's also an access to meet up with people from Pond for trading or to go meet up with you hunting buddies. (A09 2020, interpreted from Inuktitut)

I'm not really sure about the fish, but I'm really kind of concerned, because of all the dust that's the Tote Road is doing from the B-trains and heavy equipment and pick-up trucks. I know 8 might get impacted for the water. ... the B-trains are always going through the Tote Road 24/7. (C16 2020)

So he – it's always, like, silty anyway around here ... Oh, so he ate a fish that was caught there when he was working at Milne. And it was sticky. Like the meat ... when you touched it and when you, like, chewed or put it in your mouth it felt sticky. (A13 2020)

Participants have observed declines in fish numbers in the Study Area, such as Koluktoo/Quluqtu Bay in Milne Inlet.

In the summertime there used to be lots of fish [Koluktoo/Quluqtu Bay], but this year they noticed a difference in the numbers. There's hardly any fish there now. It's hard to say if it's a direct impact from the mining activity. Only when summer comes around again, then they'll be able to say, okay. There used to be so many fish, but now they are not. (A05 2020)

In addition to fish, there are concerns about contaminated water impacting other wildlife, and therefore limiting people's ability to depend on the land for healthy foods.

... this whole area around the mine is here but this area in Milne Inlet going down, the surrounding area is contaminated. So, anywhere within a certain distance is – you can't use the water anymore and, and that is having an impact already on the wildlife and that – our, our culture and our ability to be healthy and being able to provide and to be able to depend on the land for healthy living. Now that is being impacted now. (C05 2020b, interpreted from Inuktitut)

4.4.4 Project Interactions

Based on their knowledge of the area and their experiences with existing Project components, participants have a range of concerns about potential interactions between the proposed Phase 2 Project components and their fishing and freshwater values.

Of primary concern is the potential increase in dust from crushing and transport activities, at the mine site and along the Tote Road, with the range of dust being determined by how far it get blown across the land and onto the snow and ice.

You, you have to try and melt the snow or get it off of loose ice from our lake. Take chop off the top of the lake to make tea water or even water, just water for cooking. Normally, we don't dig, dig out three feet to six feet of ice to get the water, we just chop off the top of the ice and then throw it in our kettle, melt it, or snow, melt it. It's on top, we don't have to work hard for it. But if we keep getting all this dust and more of the mine is getting bigger, it'll definitely start putting all the dust all the way down because we get winds up to, I don't know, 100, over 100 kilometers an hour. (C06 2020)

Lots of dust, I seen it way fly away away from the area in Milne Inlet and Mary River. What I – what – two years ago now, maybe they brought two big buildings into Milne Inlet which they planning to do the different way to crush the iron ore, not, not in this area anymore ... But, what I thought was they should have done that in the first place. Right there, right away and [inaudible] the railroad – build a railroad first and then get those two big buildings and then crush them in, in the Milne Inlet. And that way they should – they could have saved a lot of dust flow, flow – fly away and, you know, they could of [inaudible] if they did that first. (C18 2020)

Participants are concerned about increased contamination from dust in areas that are already experiencing contamination, as well as contamination in areas that are still considered pristine.

All these water bodies that you see on the map, they're all important because they contain fish. They're a water source. Anything that's not contaminated by the Mary River activity. Beyond the range of the dust, it's all – everything's still good and usable and every water body is important because like it's a food source and water source and there's fish in there. (C23 2020, interpreted from Inuktitut)

Needless to say, it's hard to describe how huge this, and how long it's going to have an impact for sure, everything around it. Even the snow and water, watershed. If the mine doesn't really smarten up and close their crushers back, that dust is going to affect anything. The [inaudible] around that area, it's brown. And I remember passing through there and it's pristine clean, so for sure it's going to have an impact. (A07 2020)

The lack of freshwater caused by dust and associated contamination of snow, ice, and water bodies deters people from traveling to areas where dust is known to be present. Participants anticipate that the increase in dust from Phase 2 would further deter them from traveling to these areas to harvest, because they cannot reliably find clean drinking water while out on the land.

... I think [the Phase 2 expansion will be a] terrible thing for Pond people. Like, last spring a hunter [from Pond Inlet] went towards the Inlet and he couldn't drink any water from that area because it was all powdered in from the project. ... They couldn't drink any water or melt any snow. ... Because it was all covered with dust from the site. ... (C03 2020)

[Interviewer:] Are you concerned about the water in this area? ... [C03:] Yeah, when you don't like disturb any materials on the land, it's safe. But, soon as you start touching it becomes dust and lands and the water or river, it starts to – when there's metal minerals in there, it's going to start resting away in there in the lakes or the rivers. That's guaranteed, that's happening up there now already... (C03 2020)

So for him he knows right away people from Arctic or Pond and Clyde River will not go through this area no more because they have to bring their own water now just to be able to travel this far and there's so much distance you've got to cover just to be able to find a clean water source ... So the land is covered with all the dust from the mining activity and the road activity and the shipping activity. All that debris has settled in. And you can tell like when the sediments settle they sink down to the ground and they're making a black coloration occur, yeah; so right away he knows that this traditional hunting and crossing area were Clyde and Pond is no longer, cannot be used because there's no safe water source anymore. (A09 2020)

Yeah, I'm a carver. So, and it's really difficult getting soapstone into the community because we don't have softer soapstone and the only way that we can get it in is through, through air, like flying it in. And I have brought back some from Iqaluit and some Pond. But in the past my husband had gone up near Mary River to, to pick up some soapstone by skidoo, so I can carve. But in the – nowadays it's kind of scary to try and do that because according to the people from Pond they say there's lack of place where you can find a good source of water, like it's almost all dusty and like the water is filthy when you try to make your own water there. So, it's not wise to send anybody up there picking up soapstone now. Even though, I still love carving. I hate to carve with like I don't have proper tools for marble so I can't, like I can locally pick that up from just outside of my community. But since I don't have the proper tools to carve marble with, I'd rather have soapstone. (C26 2020)

One participant also discussed concerns about potential future interactions between dust from the Project and drinking water sources in their community, as well as drinking water for employees at the mine.

Yes, like you have to bring your own water and travelling by skidoo that's [Mary River area] long ways from here. And you don't know how far the dust flies into, like it's probably within my community [Clyde River] now, like maybe down the road we'll start having filthy water too. And like there's, that water, water reservoir that we have, sometimes it goes very low. So, what happens if all the dust starts coming into my community? So, where do we get our water from? (C26 2020)

The more we experience it [Project impacts], we'll – there'll be more complaints and concerns about it; but in the meantime, we're just thinking 'are we safe? Are we going to be safe in a few years down the road? Are we going to have water, proper drinking water?' Like the other concern that I

have about the Mary River employees there, how are they going to keep the water reservoir clean? Like how are they going to have drinking water? Is it all going to be flown up? And then if it spreads to the other communities like Clyde River, Arctic Bay, how are – how are we going to be provided water? (C26 2020)

Concerns about drinking water also extend to the wildlife, and the continued declines in water quality due to contamination from dust.

Yeah, it's more of a concern for the wildlife, because they don't have the, the advantage of drinking treated water. It will be going into their body system if they drink water with dust particles in it. (C21 2020, interpreted from Inuktitut)

The dust that is being produced from the transportation and the ore itself, it's super red and it contains metals. It – they don't know what it contains, and they know that it has – it's a metal and it's a metal – it's metal right. So, when all that is being released – the dust to the land, to the water sources and the, and like the – to the land, those, those may be impacting the health of everything, along with the humans. (C13 2020)

Potential impacts to fish health were raised by several participants, who foresee interactions with dust and minerals from the Project.

No. [participant would not eat fish from impacted areas] ... Yeah, the dust coming from the Mary River project could be dispersed anywhere around there. ... Yeah, he's more concerned with the dust, because it does settle on the river, and it flows down. (C21 2020, interpreted from Inuktitut)

... because, you know the river system is linked to where the fish go down to the river and go back up the river ... And it's close to the, the study area is so close to this area. And the dust from here is going this way so it's a critical area for them to harvest or to study because this is their main fishing ground. (A09 2020)

So he's saying like the reports of any studies conducted because fish go to the ocean because they're anadromous they go to the ocean and feed and go back up the river to spawn. It is very critical that they start seeing reports of the studies that they conduct on fish guts and their health, what's inside their intestine, because here all that metal debris and dust is going in the ocean and when the fish go down they start eating from the ocean. And he wants to see a report submitted to the communities on the health of the fish especially what the stomach contents are of if there's any kind of metals or contaminants present in the stomach. (A09 2020)

Participants also expressed concerns about potential impacts from bridges being built over water crossings, which could cause vibrations and other affects felt by fish.

The fish could possibly, not necessarily disappear [from rivers and creeks crossed by the Northern Railway], but not – kind of disperse from there because of the noise from the – yeah ... Vibrating noise from the – yeah. (C21 2020, interpreted from Inuktitut)

Fish, if they're going to make bridges or whatever, because the water system in this area is so – it's huge. So, for sure they're going to affect. (A07 2020)

In summary, participants identified the following potential interactions between the proposed Project and their fishing and freshwater values:

- Increased contamination of snow, ice, and water bodies from dust caused by Project components associated with the mine and the Tote Road, in areas with existing contamination as well as pristine areas currently without contamination;
- Deterrence from traveling to impacted areas due to perceived or actual contamination of freshwater sources out on the land;
- Dust contamination of drinking water sources in communities, as well as the reservoir at the mine site;
- Impacts to wildlife health due to consumption of water sources contaminated by dust from Project activities; and
- Impacts to fish health due to dust contamination of water and fish habitat.

4.5 TRAVEL, TRAILS, AND HABITATION

This section (Section 4.5) discusses the importance, impacted baseline, and potential Project interactions with the Inuit Valued Component of Travel, Trails, and Habitation.

4.5.1 Site-specific values for Travel, Trails, and Habitation

Table 8: Site-specific Travel, Trails, and Habitation values reported within the Study Area, by activity class. Numbers are cumulative with increasing spatial scales (i.e., RSA includes LSA and footprint).

Activity Class	Within 250 m of the proposed Project (footprint)		Within 5 km of the proposed Project (LSA)		Within 25 km of the proposed Project (RSA)	
	# of reported values	% of reported values	# of reported values	% of reported values	# of reported values	% of reported values
Cultural	0	0%	6	5%	6	5%
Habitation	5	10%	40	34%	43	36%
Transportation	44	90%	71	61%	71	59%
Total	49	100%	117	100%	120	100%

The following Cultural Continuity values were documented in the Project Study Area. The values are organized by Activity Class.

- **Cultural** values including: place names;
- **Habitation** values including: campsites used by Inuit when they were traversing the Study Area; and
- **Transportation** values including: numerous boat routes, snowmobile routes, ATV routes, and dog team routes used by Inuit to traverse the Study Area.

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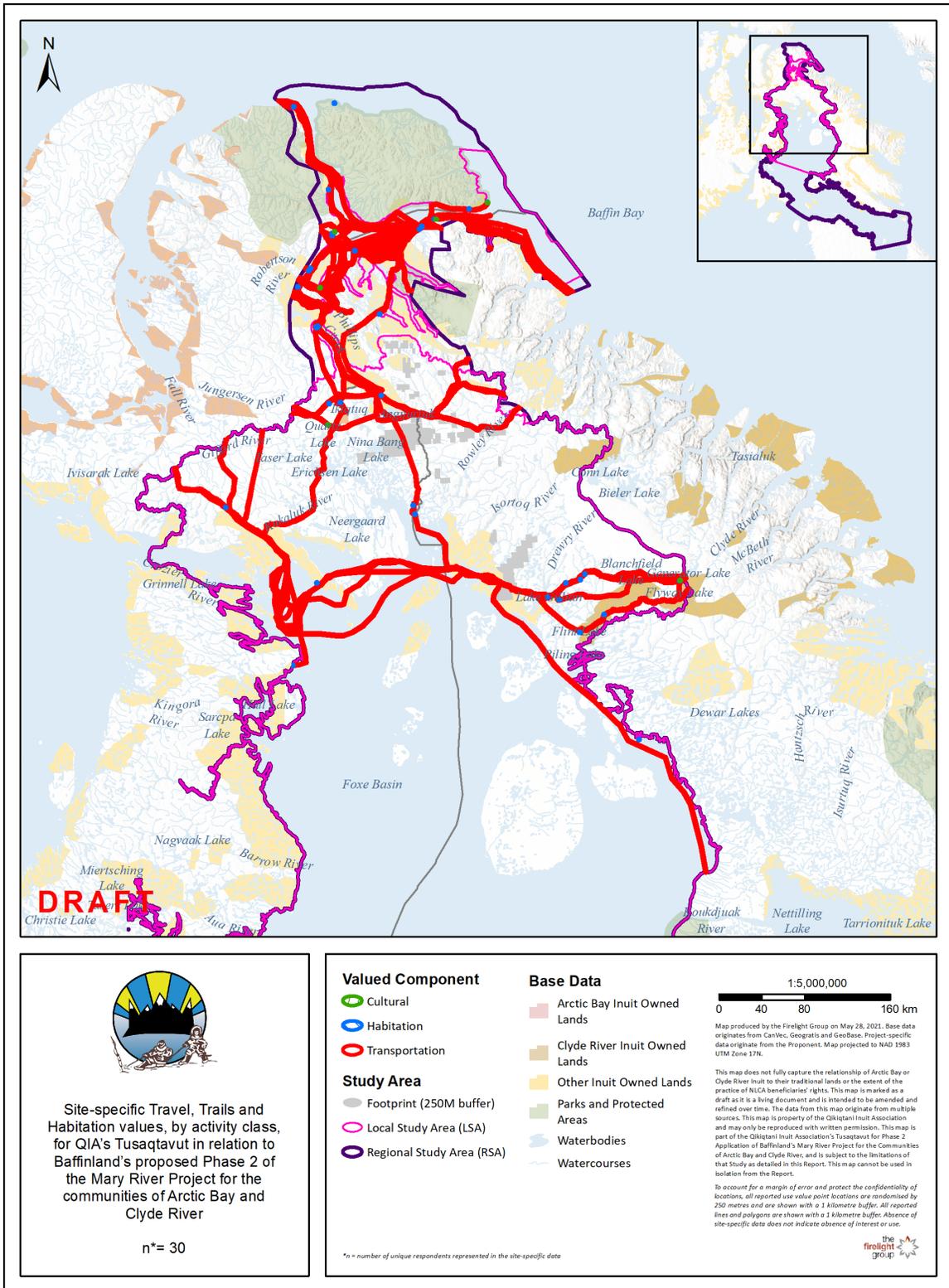


Figure 10: Arctic Bay and Clyde River site-specific Travel, Trails and Habitation values reported in the Study Area.

4.5.2 Importance

For Arctic Bay and Clyde River participants, the ability to travel across terrestrial and marine areas facilitates the practice of values such as hunting, harvesting, and fishing, as well as allowing for the promotion of cultural continuity. The valued component for Travel, Trails, and Habitation shows the importance of these travel corridors in the Study Area and beyond.

Participants from Clyde Inlet described travel routes to Pond Inlet along the sea ice, along which they would make their way between the communities, camping and harvesting at various locations.

I will start from Clyde River ... By snowmobile. [We go] Through here. And around the point. ... And it depends the – on the ice condition here. We usually try and go through here if it's not too rough. But if it's too rough we usually take this route. Took us two days to get there [Pond Inlet]. ... we were going about 40 kilometres an hour average. Yeah, we camped here [location along the route]. (C03 2020)

... sometime we were away from Clyde River when we travel to Pond Inlet, sometimes from Clyde, but normally in the north area, if you slightly north, like some – some of these things we would pick up some, pick up some food, I mean sugar, tea, maybe tobacco for my father and so on, yeah, and sometimes my mom would, would stitch something while we're traveling in springtime ... We would go north, we would travel all along the sea, sea ice ... we would camp anywhere at all, where it's good to put up a tent and so on, we would go – this is the area where I was raised ... More time than anywhere else. So we would travel along the shore and when we camp in spring it would be on the land, any place ... from here, we would travel to Pond Inlet. (C11 2020)

The Mary River area has long been valued for caribou hunting, and as one participant from Arctic Bay described, the route between Arctic Bay and Mary River has a history of travel by Inuit hunters.

She remembers ... there would be people going – coming back from Mary River area, their dogs, and the people would be walking from Mary River, in the summertime, carrying loads of caribou, on their way to Arctic Bay. So they would sometimes stop through there. And then because Mary River used to – the area used to have – it was a prime caribou hunting area, so anyone – anybody from Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet that used to go to Mary River area for caribou hunting. So it was like a path from Arctic Bay to Mary River. (A04 2020)

Participants from both Arctic Bay and Clyde River discussed how travel routes through the Study Area are selected for smoothness, ease of gradient, and safety, with travellers making their way through complicated terrain by skidoo as they hunt for caribou.

He was showing a traditional dog team trail, which is very smooth this way, but this is a skidoo trail coming down this way, yeah. So when he was – a second time around, his stepfather decided to show him a different way to get around, which is a little bit smoother to get around. And it was mostly used for dog teams because of how smooth it is. (A02 2020)

This part in general news is this part because it's so difficult to navigate around the area because of the high elevation. There is, pretty much if you don't stick to the line or the path that your traditional path, you're gonna get, run into problems of not being able to cross or being able to get down because it's so steep ... So it's a, it's challenging to navigate around the lakes and rivers 'cause of what the ice being packed and becomes dangerous, like slush on the bottom or like dangerous areas like the river system being covered by not being able to see it. The risk of falling through or so you, here it's more, you really gotta know the way to get around here 'cause they live in high elevation areas where there is glaciers, lakes, rivers and everything in between. (C06 2020)

One participant from Clyde River also discussed how the Mary River area was a gathering place for people from Clyde River, Pond Inlet, and Igloodik in the 19th century, where they would gather and stay while harvesting caribou and other species, and fishing in the lakes nearby.

Historically, when they wanted to meet people up from Pond Inlet and people from Igloodik they would meet up here for ... So, Mary River was the main gathering spot from – people from Pond, Clyde, and Igloodik. ... And then this was a big – this was a camp where they would – this lake where they would use kayaks to look for caribou. ... So – oh, yeah. So, this has landmarks where they use rocks to make markings for caribou hunting. It represents ... [This place is] Mary River, where it's a gathering spot for people from Clyde, Pond, and Igloodik where they would meet up together to harvest caribous in the fall time. ... To go look for caribou for clothing. ... So, they would gather here starting in August, and then leave that area until October to gather hides and meat. ... back in the day, like nobody was occupying Clyde River at the time. ... they would, they would have land and go everywhere. ... Wherever the game was, wherever the food was. ... it was way before he was born that [Inuit gathered at Mary River] started happening. ... Between 1800 and 1900 it was a big travelling spot for our ancestors to meet and gather for clothing and food. ... This is a gathering spot, people would bring their kayaks and then leave them. There's, around this lake, there's landmarks where we use rocks to put our kayak like this so it won't be on the ground. ... Because this whole area was – it's a big lake, right. It's up on – it's an ideal habitat for caribou, for lichen, and food. ... And that was a major camping area where our hunters use their kayaks to get around the lake and harvest. ... You could tell by all the rocks that were used for stands for the – their kayaks ... if you up there there's all these rocks that you could see that they use to store their kayaks. ... It was before his time but all that knowledge was passed down with stories and from the knowledge from one of their community members – they would often talk about that. ... this area

was very significant for the three communities to be able to provide clothing. (C05 2020a, interpreted from Inuktitut)

4.5.3 Impacted Baseline

Over time, travel through the Study Area has changed with people's ability to find healthy wildlife in the area. Two participants from Clyde River discussed how wildlife migration patterns have changed and numbers have gone down since the Mary River Project has been in operation.

For six years every spring he would go [by snowmobile to] visit family in Pond Inlet from Clyde River. ... And there used to be plenty of, of wildlife. ... Plenty of wildlife around from Clyde River to Pond Inlet. ... This is before the – before too much was heard about Baffinland. ... Before even the plans about Mary River project. ... Yeah, [in the] mid 1990s. ... Every spring. ... The, the trail – the trips were pretty good, you know, they would see caribou and then they would see polar bear tracks, so it was pretty. ... He – from his observation of having travelled up there and now with Mary River project in production, he has observed that the caribou are migrating further south. Like, they're, they're ... They're being further south. ... Yeah, he grew up going up there all the time ... And they would go caribou hunting over there. ... And ever since Mary River project started ... It appears there's less wildlife since the project started in that area. ... Yeah, so since the project started it seems like they're kind of moving away from this area and going further down here. Since the blasting started. ... And since the project started. (C08 2020)

Yeah, so the Baffinland, Mary River right now is already impacting so much and changing things rapidly in a bad space. And these are significant impacts. It's visible. And fear things are happening at the same time. The impacts are growing to the habitat for wildlife and our path, our traditional travel routes. Which is crossing – overlapping the Baffinland railroad trail. That is also changing the behaviour of caribou because caribou are always being pursued by predation by wolves. But yet, when they're – when they get used to being around the railroad activity, the dump trucks and the heavy equipment, and when they know that those kind of activities are not – they're not being hunted, they're going to get comfortably – comfortable about or being around the activity, mining activity because it's – they don't see it as a threat. And then they change their behaviour to be around that area exposing themselves to the dust along the potential – potential getting run over or being run over, or like, you know, overlapping trail, caribou trail, and the railroad. (C14 2020, interpreted from Inuktitut)

Another participant from Clyde River spoke about how Inuit are dissuaded from traveling through the Study Area due to the Project infrastructure and contamination, with dust being a particular deterrent.

It [Mary River area] has changed dramatically. There's a lot of construction and a lot of houses and buildings now. Along with like the material being extracted and being used to make the roads looks so contaminated and

orange. And even, even for a skidoo, you don't want to go up there anymore because it's so dusty. (C23 2020, interpreted from Inuktitut)

A participant from Arctic Bay discussed how community members now avoid some travel routes due to access limitations from Project activities, which has changed the routes they use to travel and harvest caribou.

So community members have been advised not to cross this area, so they were outside the study area looking for caribou ... right now you got to communicate with Baffinland before they let you cross, so they don't really go that way anymore ... Before they used to go this way but now that the railroad and the operations are here they don't go this way anymore but before they used to go this way. He mainly sticks to this area now. (A09 2020)

4.5.4 Project Interactions

Based on their experience with existing impacts, and their observations of ongoing Project operations, participants anticipate a number of interactions between the Project and their Travel, Trails, and Habitation values.

Two Clyde River participants expressed concerns regarding Project shipping impacts on their ability to access marine hunting trails, camps, and harvesting sites in the Study Area, where hunters from Clyde River and other communities await narwhal migrating east from Pond Inlet.

I drove from here to Pond Inlet before by snowmobile, but I was very young. We didn't harvest, we weren't hunting at all. It was just going up to Pond to visit. That area seemed to be very important to the hunters in Pond because they go to the floe edge to harvest their narwhals and to harvest their seals, belugas – Or other animals like birds and whatnot. The trail that we took, I think it's very important to the hunters. If they can't use that trail, then they won't be able to harvest any animals at all. (C04 2020)

So traditionally, this [place, Nattiqsuju] was like a campground for their community members' elders and that's how they know about the area. This serves as a path too, during the migration of narwhals. This is – this was also like a waiting post. [Inuktitut spoken]. ... This was traditionally used for waiting for narwhals to come out from Pond Inlet and this is where they would wait for them. And with the shipping activity increase, if all that activity increases there it's going to block the migration path of Narwhals coming from Pond Inlet down. (C13 2020, interpreted from Inuktitut)

Multiple Clyde River participants expressed concerns about how Phase 2 will continue to disrupt traditional terrestrial travel routes through the Study Area. In particular, they are concerned about how the northern railroad will intersect with caribou migration patterns and associated hunting travel routes.

His number one concern right now, the project in mind is that – is going to be overlapping with our traditional hunting grounds, our traditional path, which seems to be very vital here because of the topography and the challenges of navigating around to get to these crucial areas for caribou hunting. Along with caribou migration patterns are going to be disrupted because it's going to be overlapping with the railroad. And with the increased activities it may present a challenge for elders to travel if they're used – if there's only one way to get up there and then you disrupt that only path, then they're going to have to figure out a new way. Because when you can see there's a lot of ridges, a lot of river systems and so much high elevation that these paths are passed on from generation to generation because it's the safest and quickest way to get round. So once that is impacted it may change our ability to get around. Because like there's a lot of features, like big boulders and steep hills and, like, if you take away the path for us to get around and then it forces a hunter or animal to change their route. And which may, like – his main concern if an elder's alone and he's trying to use his old traditional route and it's blocked because there's boulders and ridges as you can see. Like different topographic features. ... And then when that's interrupted and disrupted it has potential for big impacts on our ability to access those areas, our ability to get around and go hunting. (C14 2020)

... the only concern he has is ... are our old traditional path and hunting areas going to be able to – are we going to still be able to do that when Phase 2 occurs because it's on our path, and caribou migration path and our skidoo path trails? ... So, in the future, they'll under – they'll, they'll going to learn if it's still going to be usable like that. (C23 2020, interpreted from Inuktitut)

But the thing is, if it's [Phase Two] approved it's going to be crossing our caribou hunting grounds and caribou-passing areas, caribou mating grounds and movement – the trails, which will impact our food source and the environment around the mining activity in itself, not only to the marine – our terrestrial animals along also that marine mammals that will be impacted from the increased shipping. (C05 2020b, interpreted from Inuktitut)

One Clyde River participant articulated concerns about safety, and how there would be risk of getting stuck while crossing the railroad tracks.

And the third thing which is, if you're travelling alone as a hunter and you're not with a hunting party, and say Phase 2 goes up – goes through and you've got a – you've got to cross through that railroad, you have a potential risk of getting stuck. Yeah, trying to cross the railroad. Yeah, which poses danger to either being runned over or like exhausting yourself trying to get out of there. And damaging your gear or potentially even harmful. (C14 2020, interpreted from Inuktitut)

In summary, participants are concerned about the following potential interactions between the Project and their Travel, Trails, and Habitation values:

- Impaired use of marine travel routes used to access camps and marine hunting areas due to increased shipping activity; and
- Impaired access to terrestrial hunting areas due to the construction and operation of the Northern Railway.

4.6 CULTURAL CONTINUITY

This section (Section 4.6) discusses the importance, impacted baseline, and potential Project interactions with the Inuit Valued Component of Cultural Continuity.

4.6.1 Site-specific values for Cultural Continuity

Table 9: Site-specific Cultural Continuity values reported within the Study Area, by activity class. Numbers are cumulative with increasing spatial scales (i.e., RSA includes LSA and footprint)

Activity Class	Within 250 m of the proposed Project (footprint)		Within 5 km of the proposed Project (LSA)		Within 25 km of the proposed Project (RSA)	
	# of reported values	% of reported values	# of reported values	% of reported values	# of reported values	% of reported values
Cultural	23	88%	55	85%	58	85%
Environmental	2	8%	3	5%	3	4%
Habitation	1	4%	7	11%	7	10%
Total	26	100%	65	100%	68	100%

The following Cultural Continuity values were documented in the Project Study Area. The values are organized by Activity Class.

- **Cultural values** including: place names; birth places; burial sites; an historic whaling site; a site where whale bones were collected for craft; numerous soapstone collection sites; gathering places; sites where *inusugait* are located; and teaching areas;
- **Environmental values** including: habitat areas that are of historic significance; and
- **Habitation values** including: campsites; and sites where people lived in sod houses.